The United States of America and its allies were shocked at the emergence of the new terrorist organization known as ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham). The group, within the course of several months, had taken control of strategic cities in both Iraq and Syria. They had also gained American arms and armor from the Iraqi army units they defeated. Since then, President Obama has mostly held firm to his belief that boots on the ground are unnecessary and that air strikes are sufficient to defeat the Islamic State. However, this is not the rational approach to the issue at hand with ISIS. Nor is it the definite answer academically.

In my poster presentation, I will attempt to explain the ideology behind ISIS and how it relates to the rational response the US could take. I will also attempt to explain both the rational approaches to the Islamic State as well as the different schools of thought in relation to the US's foreign policy. This will include discussions of realist and liberal thinking and the grand strategies of the United States throughout its history and how they relate to the current situation in the Middle East. These different ideas will then be used to create a possible solution for the United States in the Middle East and will include possible outcomes in terms of the region.